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## GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS.

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### BOOK NOTICES.

**A Canyon Voyage.** By **Frederick S. Dellenbaugh.** xx and 277 pp., 50 Illustrations, and Index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1908. Price, \$3.50.

Mr. Dellenbaugh, as is well known, was one of the party with whom Major Powell made his second journey down the canyons of the Green-Colorado river. It was this expedition (1871-72) that continued and enlarged upon the explorations of 1869 when Major Powell made his famous first descent of the river. This rarely equalled feat of pioneer exploration was one of heroic daring, but it was limited by circumstances to three months, and it was necessary to supplement it with another journey in order to obtain the geologic, hydrographic, and hypsometric data, the topographic surveys, photographs, and other material required to make a map of the river and its canyons. Nearly two years were given to the work, including the time spent at two winter camps. Major Powell gave his attention chiefly to geologic studies and the problems of the great canyons; Professor A. H. Thompson was the geographer and topographer; Mr. Dellenbaugh was the artist, and, later, assistant topographer, and six other men completed the party.

The great amount of material, collected by the expedition, was used in preparing Major Powell's well-known report, "Exploration of the Colorado River of the West, 1869-1872." The map of the river made by this party was the basis of later mapping and the rich results of the expedition were the foundation of further research. It is a little remarkable that no history of the expedition, with all its varied and unusual experiences, was ever given to the public till Mr. Dellenbaugh wrote this book. He is the authorized and rightful historian of this notable exploration. In 1902, Major Powell wrote to him that he hoped he would put on record the second trip and the men who carried out the work; and the late Professor Thompson wrote to him, in 1906: "You are the heir to all the Colorado material and I am getting what I have together."

Mr. Dellenbaugh's book tells the complete story of that long and thrilling journey. It is a narrative of daily experiences and of actual camp life told with literary charm and a sense of humour; for in the many days of danger, when nerves were tense and prospects were grim, there was the sunny side of things even in the depths of the shadowy chasms that walled them in. The situation that often confronted these men, for weeks at a time, was that if they were wrecked while dodging the rocks in the foaming rapids, they might be left without food; for even if they might scale the imprisoning walls, the desert wilderness above would still hem them in. This pleasant contingency, by the way, is not mentioned in the book, but it is perfectly obvious; and any reader who would

like to have a vivid idea of what it means to travel for many months in a swirl of waters at the bottom of rugged chasms hundreds to thousands of feet in depth, where the roar of rapids sometimes drowns the voices of comrades at your side, will get a better conception of it from this book than from anything else that has been written.

The book is edifying as well as entertaining, for the reader gets from it a good general idea of the more prominent phases of information that were the fruit of the enterprise. But Mr. Dellenbaugh has not recapitulated the geological and other scientific details so fully presented in the reports of Powell and others. His part of the literary results is the history of the memorable journey, and no story of the kind was ever better worth the telling. All the material needed for a full and accurate account of this Colorado voyage was in his hands and he has woven it into a very careful and readable narrative. The book was needed to complete the history of the pioneer efforts to solve the mystery of the Colorado Canyons.

#### ***Handbook of Alaska, its Resources, Products and Attractions.***

**By Major-General A. W. Greely, U.S.A.** xiii and 280 pp., 25 Illustrations from Photographs, 8 Maps, Tables and Index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909. Price, \$2.00.

No aspect of Alaska that has interest for our citizens is neglected in this Handbook. This immense and valuable Territory is growing in importance every year, and still Alaska is comparatively unknown to the larger part of our people and erroneous information about it is widespread. It was time such a handbook was written, and it is fortunate that this work, which thoroughly covers the field, is from the pen of an American who was probably better fitted to write it than any other man. Major-General Greely has been familiar with the Territory for nine years. He has visited it six times, travelled very widely in various parts of it, directed the building of over 4,000 miles of its military telegraph lines, submarine cables and wireless, and, twice, has been in supreme military command of the vast domain. Not only does he know his subject, but he has seen Alaska with the eyes of an explorer and geographer of international fame who is also keenly alive to all its potentialities. With this equipment, he has written a book filled with definite and accurate information to meet the needs of the student, of those interested in Alaskan development or commercial enterprise, and of those who plan a visit to Alaska for business, pleasure or research or to seek a permanent home there.

The author first gives a general description of the Territory, its geographical features, climate, its waterways, roads and railways. A brief statement of the work of the army, which has played an important part in the exploration, government and development of Alaska, is followed by a significant chapter on the possibilities of agriculture, the forest resources and the reservations established for the preservation of mammals and birds and other purposes. Then comes a clear and orderly treatment, in 65 pages, of the metals and coal in Alaska, conveying a good idea of the distribution of the mineral wealth and what is being done to develop it. From the chapters given to the fur seal and the fisheries of Alaska many will derive their first idea of the great importance which Alaskan fishing has assumed. "Apart from gold-mining, the salmon fishery is the overshadowing industry in Alaska." The chapters on "Tourist Trips," "Glacier Regions" and "Mountains" are full of the informing matter essential for the best guidance of